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White Star, Piccadilly,
18th Jan. 1839, Friday evening.

I am not yet in private lodgings, but hope to be so to-morrow. You may not expect me to mention that the things I see in a day here in this busy metropolis, where as yet every thing I have seen has been viewed in the most desultory manner. I breakfasted with Hooker & Richardson, who left me for an hour at the Adelaide Gallery, where I saw very many things to interest me, which we will not stop to talk of now, as I hope to be there again, — among other things, — a fine Gymnastical or Electrical cell, which gives powerful shocks, they say, for I did not choose to feel it myself. Thence we visited the Museum of the Zoological Society, for which Dr. Richardson not only procured us free admittance but procured for us an order to visit the Zoological gardens — made calls with Hooker, whom Joseph & I left with the Chancellor of Exchequer in Downing St. while we passed by Westminster Hall and Abbey, down to Bartham's, who has a beautiful residence as retired as the country. Found Bartham an exceedingly pleasant and amiable man; spent an hour or two, till Hooker came in, — accepted an invitation to dine with him tomorrow — went into the City; introduced to Richard Taylor at his printing office, was all invited to breakfast on Tuesday morning next. — went to Longman's famous book-store & was-house; — one of the young Longman's politely showed us over the building; showed us room after room filled with solid literature, a most surprising quantity, — went by St. Paul's again, saw the Bank &c. &c. — took in omnibus again to West End; passed by the London University &c. &c. — Joe Hooker & I went to dine with J. E. Gray, who has taken it into his head to show us no little attention; he has lately married a rich wife, a widow, much older than him, — and much more sensible; indeed I was quite pleased with her. Went to the Botanical Society; — poor concern, and then to hear Faraday give the first lecture of the season at the Royal Institution, Mr. Gray being kindly offered us tickets. I was unexpectedly introduced to Faraday just before the lecture; pleasant man, with a very quick and lively expression of countenance. The lecture was on Electrical Cells &c. — not elegant

Lecturer he is; brilliant and rapid expounder.

I hope to hear him again.

Saturday Evening, Jan. 19th

I am now in lodgings, no 36 Northumberland St. near Northumberland House, Charing Cross. - in the rooms just vacated by Dr. Richardson. - 11 shillings a week, and a shilling for my breakfast when I choose to take it here. It is half past eleven, I have just come in, no fire, but fortunately my occupation for to-day is soon told. Hooker, Joe & I breakfasted with Brown at his house, and stayed with him until 4 o'clock in the afternoon! I have a good deal to say about him but not here. He is a curious man in other things besides botany. He has a few choice paintings, and a few exquisite engravings he has picked up on the Continent I coveted them for you. They are just what we should be delighted to have. I dressed for dinner, then drove with my baggage to my present lodgings, and then took up Hooker & Joe for Bentham's to dinner at 1/2 past 6, where we met Lindley & Mr. Bridges: - The dinner was just the beau ideal of taste and simple elegance. In the drawing-room coffee was first served up, and in an half hour Assam Tea. I am greatly pleased with Bentham, and delighted with Mr. B. But more of this anon. We are to breakfast with him on Monday and then make up a party to Ken & the Horticultural gardens. The house he lives in, a pleasant place, plain but tastefully furnished and arranged, was the one where Jeremy Bentham lived. For the present Good night.

Sunday Evening, 20th January, 1839.

I found myself this morning in sad perplexity, in a matter in which I had not anticipated any difficulty. I had intended to hear the Rev. Baptist Noel, of whose piety and usefulness I had heard so much. But I was unable to find any directors or Guide-Book that gave any information whatever concerning churches or their pastors. Sadly puzzled I walked out by chance, here & there making such inquiries as I could, but with no success. I passed by Westminster Abbey, in which service was going on (the Cathedral service usually begins at 10 o'clock), went in and stayed for some time; but this service, even in such a noble building, does not strike me either as solemn or sublime; so when the ordinary hour of morning service arrived, I went to the nearest parish church, which was well filled with an apparently devout

audience. The sermon, from a portion of 1 Peter, 2, 17. "Fear God." - was cold and formal. I wished myself, when I hope you were, under the voice of the good Dr. Skinner. I spent the greater part of the intermission, which is here short, in endeavouring to find a dissenting Chapel, and thought I had succeeded, but found after I had taken my seat that it was an Episcopal Chapel. But as it turned out I had no reason to regret it, for we had a truly evangelical sermon from Isaiah 55, 6-7, - almost as good as I could have heard in America. I hope to be better provided against another sabbath; and to call soon at the Religious Tract Society's rooms, where I doubt not I may obtain the information I desire. The evening I have spent comfortably and quietly by myself in my new lodgings. I am glad to have such a time of rest after the whole of the past week. Indeed I hope I shall have a few evenings of the present week to myself.

Tuesday evening, ~~Dec.~~ Jan. 22nd.

I have to account for myself for two days past; but fortunately this can be done in general terms in few words. We do not enter very fully into particulars I should fill several sheets. Yesterday Sir Wm. H. Hooker & I breakfasted, according to appointment with Bentham, and set out, although the day was rainy for a visit to the Horticultural Gardens at Chiswick. We went in an Omnibus, and I noticed, on the way, Abster House (Duke of Wellington) and the monument to His Grace in Hyde Park near his house (What is the good of honours indeed if one can not see them). I saw the Holl and House which I saw from some distance &c. - We found Lindley at the Gardens and looked through the grounds. They have very few hot-houses as yet, but have just dug the foundation of a very splendid one which is, however, to form one wing merely of the general plan. We went on to Ken, about 2 miles farther, and looked through those fine old ground gardens. The hot-houses & the collections in them were much larger and more interesting than I had anticipated. They are particularly rich in Mr. Holland's & Cape Plants. There is a new conservatory for large plants, a line one certainly, which cost six thousand pounds, and the roof was taken from a green-house at Buckingham Palace and therefore cost nothing. It seems an extravagant job, and Mr. Bentham feels sure a much better one of the same size could be built for £4000. While here we paid a visit to Francis Bauer, now 85 years old, and much broken down, but still hard at work, and making as beautiful drawings

as well (beyond comparison excellent), and as delicate microscopical examinations. He has lately been working at fossil Infusoria, and showed me figures of Bailey's Plate in Tillman's journal which he had copied. He was greatly pleased when I offered the said thin specimens of the things themselves. He showed me the original Red Snow from Arctic America, and also his splendid drawings. Returned to town, and dined with Beethoven in a family way.

This morning we breakfasted with Richard Taylor in the city; and went afterward to the College of Surgeons, by appointment Hooker had made, to see Prof. Owen, and the fine museum of the College under his charge (John Hunter's originally); — a magnificent collection it is, in the finest possible order; and the arrangement and plan of the room is far, very far better and prettier than any other I have seen. I shall make some memoranda about it. We then met Mr. Darwin, the naturalist who accompanied Capt. King in the Beagle. I was glad to form the

acquaintance of such a profound scientific scholar as Prof. Owen, the best comparative anatomist living; still young, and one of the most mild, gentle, child like men I ever saw. He gave us a great deal of most interesting information, and showed us personally throughout the whole Museum, I am every day under deeper obligations to Sir Wm. Hooker, to whom I owe the gratification of forming so many acquaintances under such favorable circumstances.

Hooker stays over night often at his brother-in-law's, Sir Francis Palgrave, the great antiquarian and Saxon scholar, Keeper of the Records, of whom I have read so much in the British Reviews &c. His eldest daughter, Maria, is spending the winter there. On Hooker's return on Monday he was so kind as to bring me an invitation from Lady Palgrave to dine with them on Saturday, which will be the last I shall see of Hooker, as he is to set out on Monday for home.

In the afternoon we spent an interesting hour in looking through the vast halls of the British Museum, particularly through the Sculpture, the Elgin Marbles, Egyptian antiquities &c. These last are much more grand than I had supposed. Indeed I was struck with wonder. I hope some time to spend a day or two in looking through these rich collections.